(b) All required tests were carried out.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All actions will be taken as recommended by the Board of Inquiry.

Service tenure of Short Service Commissioned officers

†3089. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenure of service for Short Service Commissioned officers of Air Force has been fixed to fourteen years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The term of engagement for the Short Service Commissioned (SSC) officers of the Indian Air Force, to be inducted from the course commencing in January 2006 onwards, has been fixed at 10 years, extendable to 14 years. This decision has been taken in order to bring uniformity between the three Armed Forces.

Renewal of Indo-Russian Defence Programme

3090. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have agreed to renew defence programme for another 10 years from 2010;

(b) if so, any discussion has been held with the Russian authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There exists an Agreement signed on 21.12.1998 between India and Russia on the Long Term Programme of Military and Technical Cooperation for the period upto the year 2010. There exists an institutional mechanism for discussion on defence cooperation with the Russian

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Federation in the form of 'India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation'. The Fifth meeting was held in Russia on November 15-16, 2005. Raksha Mantri Co-Chaired the meeting. During the meeting both sides reviewed progress of the on-going bilateral defence cooperation and discussed various issues of mutual interest in the areas of defence and security. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the on-going level of defence exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of additional air tonnage to Arunachal Pradesh

3091. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation of air tonnage made by Government in Fixed Wing and Rotary Wing in respect of the State of Arunachal Pradesh for the year 2005-06;

(b) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has asked for allocation of additional air tonnage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Government to maintain smooth supply of essential commodities to the people residing in remote/international border areas of this border State?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Government of Arunachal Pradesh, were allotted air tonnage of 650 Metric Tonnes in the Fixed Wing and 500 Metric Tonnes in the Rotary Wing for the year 2005-06 against 760 Metric Tonnes in the Fixed Wing and 500 Metric Tonnes in the Rotary Wing allotted in 2004-05

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh requested for additional allocations of 1000 Metric Tonnes in the Rotary Wing. Since there was no additional capacity available in the Rotary Wing, additional allocations of 250 Metric Tonnes in September 2005 and 350 Metric Tonnes in October 2005, in the Fixed Wing were made. A part of the additional allocation to Arunachal Pradesh was made by reducing the allocation made to other organizations.